

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Muzzle (12)~~ A muzzle comprising:  
a restraining part (14) designed to surround the mouth of an animal (40) to prevent it from opening, and  
means for holding (20, 22) the restraining part on the head, ~~characterized in that~~  
~~said the restraining part (14) is being arranged~~ [[in]] such ~~a way~~ that it opens elastically so long as it is subjected to a force below a limit value, and is locked if that force is exceeded.

2. (Currently Amended) The muzzle of according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the restraining part (14) includes a strap (16) designed to surround the animal's mouth (40) and a ~~blocking~~ locking mechanism (18) ~~co-operating~~ cooperating with the strap, (16) ~~and the locking mechanism~~ comprising:  
a reel (28) provided with a core (28a) to which one end of the strap is attached;  
a frame (24) on which the reel (28) is rotatably mounted ~~mobile in rotation~~ and to which the other end of the strap is rigidly attached;  
a spring (38) linking the reel (28) to the frame (24) and arranged in such a way that ~~said the~~ the strap (16) is wound on the reel (28) when the spring (38) is let down, while the spring is wound up when the strap (16) is unreeled;  
a device for measuring the speed of rotation of the reel~~[[,]]~~; and

a bolt ~~co-operating~~ cooperating with the speed measurement device and arranged so as to lock the reel when the speed exceeds its limit value.

3. (Currently Amended) The muzzle of according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the speed measurement device and the bolt are of the mechanical inertia type.

4. (Currently Amended) The muzzle of according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the speed measurement device contains an inertia component (36, 38) positioned elastically and mounted ~~pivoting~~ pivotably on the reel around an axis offset relative to its centre center of gravity (G), and wherein the bolt includes a lock mechanism provided with:

teeth (24f) integral with the frame, and

a latch (36b) contained in the inertia component (36) in its part opposite the pivoting axis relative to the centre center of gravity (G), and designed to ~~co-operate~~ cooperate with the teeth (24f).

5. (Currently Amended) The muzzle of according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the speed measurement device contains an electric sensor and the bolt contains an electromechanical transducer (52) and a bolt (54) actuated by the transducer (52), and ~~co-operating~~ cooperating with the coil (28) to lock it when the speed exceeds a limit value.

6. (Currently Amended) The muzzle of according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sensor contains a generator (46) equipped with a rotor (44) and a stator (48), one incorporating a magnet and the other a winding, the rotor (44) ~~is being~~ mounted rigidly on said the reel (28), and the winding (50) ~~contains~~ containing two terminals connected to the terminals of said the transducer (52), the generator and the transducer being arranged in such a way that ~~said the~~ bolt is activated whenever the reel exceeds a limit speed.

7. (Currently Amended) The muzzle of ~~any of claims~~ according to claim 2 to 6, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising two straps (46) and two locking mechanisms (48), each locking mechanism ~~co-operating~~ cooperating with one of said the straps.